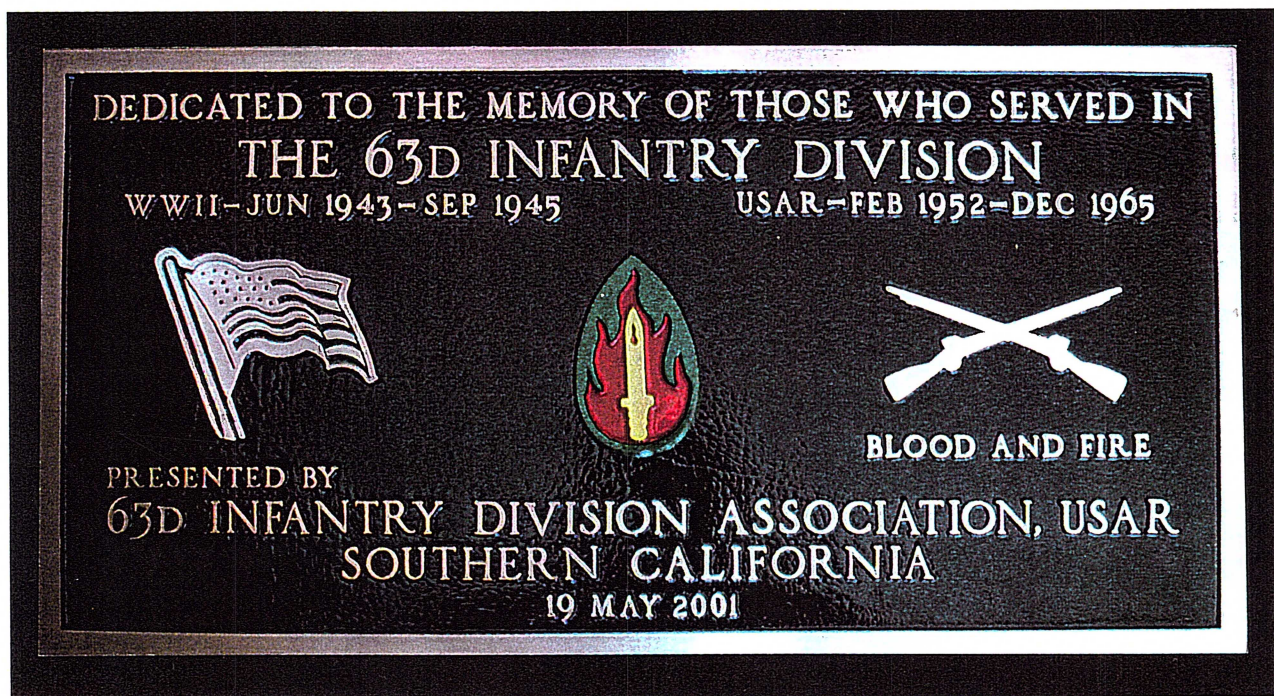


63D

INFANTRY DIVISION
ASSOCIATION, USAR



Annual Report
22 April 2001



ABOUT THE COVER

At a meeting of the Board of Governors during the past year, CW4 George Murray offered a recommendation by which the Association would join other military organizations in placing a unit plaque at the Riverside National Cemetery. This commemorative plaque would honor all persons who have served under the colors of the 63rd Infantry Division. The Board unanimously approved the recommendation and directed CW4 Murray to proceed with the project.

The 63rd Infantry Division has a proud history. After activation at Camp Blanding, Florida, on 15 June 1943, and following intensive combat training, the Division was transferred to the European Theater of Operations. During the period 8 February -29 April 1945, the Division, assigned to VI Corps, Seventh Army, played a key role in the bitter, deadly combat of the time. The 63rd penetrated German defenses in Southern France and Germany, earning recognition in three major operations. Two members of the Division earned the Medal of Honor. Following the end of hostility in Europe, the 63rd Division was returned to the USA and deactivated on 27 September 1945.

On Washington's Birthday, 22 February 1952, the Division was reactivated as a unit of the Army Reserve. Divisional units were activated in Southern California on 1 March 1952. Quickly, the Division earned a prominent place as a member of the USAR in the "One Army Concept". The 63rd was again deactivated on 31 December 1965 during a total reorganization of the USAR. The proud colors were once again retired.

The bronze plaque shown on the cover will be dedicated on Armed Force Day, Saturday, 19 May 2001.

Presidential Unit Citation

The following is a copy of The Presidential Unit Citation awarded of one World War II Battalions of the 63rd Infantry Division.

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, I have today awarded

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)
FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM
TO THE
2nd BATTALION, 253rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

The 2nd Battalion, 253rd Infantry Regiment is cited for outstanding and gallant performance of duty against the enemy from 4 to 12 April 1945 in an area between the Jagst and Kocher Rivers northeast of Heilbronn, Germany. It was in this area that the enemy committed its best available troops in defensive positions along open ridges; giving them almost perfect observation and fields of fire. The battalion was at an additional disadvantage due to severe dispersion of supporting fire. Early dawn on 4 April, the 2nd Battalion crossed the Jagst River at Untergriesheim and quickly secured a bridgehead. The enemy employed a series of sharp counter attacks before the battalion could consolidate, using devastating firepower of tanks directed at individual fox holes and penetrated forward defensive positions. Inspired by the courageous leadership of their officers, these counter attacks were all beaten back. Assisted by the 1st Battalion, they then enlarged the bridgehead, but were still unable to establish a vehicular crossing over the Jagst River for two days due to intense and accurate artillery fire. Finally, on 5 April, a bridge was completed and some armored assistance was secured. On the evening of 5 April, three tanks were lost as the attack was continued. On 6 April, against extremely heavy opposition, troops of the 2nd Battalion captured the town of Buchhof. Two enemy counter attacks followed causing heavy casualties within the Battalion, but both attacks were beaten back. With only about 50 percent effective combat strength, the Battalion made ready to resume the attack on 8 April. The 2nd Battalion was to secure the high ground overlooking Stein Am Kocher. Again it met formidable resistance. but pressed the attack home with determination. Even after the tank support withdrew because of casualties and heavy fire, the 2nd Battalion fought its way forward. The cost in casualties was high but the tough core of SS resistance was broken. By this time the effective strength of all line companies was whittled down to about 50 men. Four Company Commanders had been killed or wounded, most companies had only a few Non-Commissioned Officers left and they had no company officers left. It took courage and determination of the highest order to continue the attacks, particularly after the leaders were gone and especially after the tank support withdrew. The 2nd Battalion was relieved on 10 April, but with very little time to rest and regroup; the battalion was ordered to attack to the south to cross the Kocher River. Though its ranks were thinned and its key personnel gone, the 2nd Battalion had the spirit, determination and punch left to continue the attack and make new gains, reaching and crossing the Kocher River to pursue the badly mauled 17th SS Division. Opposing the Battalion during these battles were two regiments of the 17th SS Division, the 17th SS Reconnaissance Battalion and the Battalion Bitche. Reinforcing these elements were young, fanatic Nazis, former members of the 12th SS Division and Hitler Youth. During this operation, the 2nd Battalion suffered 280 casualties: 54 killed in action; 211 wounded in action: and 16 missing in action. But the 2nd Battalion, with great determination and heroic achievement, ripped the fanatic 17th SS Division to shreds and caused it to withdraw from the fight, thus preventing the enemy from gaining time to prepare the Danube defenses in the National Redoubt area. The achievement of the 2nd Battalion, 253rd infantry Regiment, 63rd Infantry Division is a credit to all its officers and men and added a glorious page to the history of the American Infantry.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is once again time for our annual meeting, coming together with our military families and comrades to renew old friendships. I always enjoy seeing old 63rd Association friends, indulging in good food and participating in our interesting programs.

This last year after a hot presidential campaign, we have a new president who has promised to give our country and the military a better quality of life. It is now our turn to support our President's promises by writing to our various U. S. Representatives. We need to ask them to sponsor and support new legislation to improve the quality of life for our citizens and definitely for our military.

This last year, Congress approved and added to the Defense budget, the Tricare program for military retirees 65 years of age and older. This program will finally provide the life time medical care promised to those who served and retired after 20 years of duty.

I am happy to report that our membership is at 185 members with an additional 29 honorary members. I regret to report that we lost seven members who passed away last year.

This last year we improved our relationship with the 63d Regional Support Command. We attended two of their affairs, a Command Dining Out in February, 2000 and a joint meeting with ROA Chapter 92 in February, 2001.

We also improved our affiliation with the World War II 63d Infantry Division Association. We are receiving copies of their publications and we send copies of our publications to five of their officers. We also access their website for additional data.

Many thanks to CW4 George Murray who recommended and designed the plaque shown on the cover. The plaque is dedicated to all 63d Infantry Division personnel from WWII and the USAR. The plaque will be dedicated at the Memorial Wall, Riverside National Cemetery on Armed Forces Day, 10:00am , 19 May 2001.

In closing , I want to thank all the members of the Board of Governors for their hard work and support. I especially thank all of you, the members, for your support and your generous contributions to our sustaining fund.

This will be my last term as President. I am going to take my doctor's advice and step down , but I will continue as board member emeritus. I will support the board as an advisor.



OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION



2000 ~ 2001

President - Sergeant Major Howard B. Eighmy

Vice President - Colonel Lydia Collins

Secretary - Lieutenant Colonel Donald L. Wirth

Treasurer - Major Raymond H. Edgerly



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Layland A. Carson

Lieutenant Colonel Fred E. Davidson

Sergeant Major Thomas Gorden, Jr.

Colonel Thomas F Jones

Chief Warrant Officer 4 George F. Murray

Colonel David G. Ross

Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Smith

Lieutenant Colonel Earle D. Sweeney

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD

Colonel Charles J. McCleery

Lieutenant Colonel Harold F. Pellegrin

Lieutenant Colonel Stanley T. Hoversten

COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

Brigadier General Robert D. Upp

PAST PRESIDENTS

1/1966-8/1966	Lieutenant Colonel Noel B. Pattinson*
8/1966-5/1967	Lieutenant Colonel Walter B. Kroener
1967-1968	Captain William B. Kuntz
1968-1969	Major Noah F. Modisett
1969-1970	Lieutenant Colonel Noel B. Pattinson*
1970-1971	Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy S. Gozawa*
1971-1972	Major William T. Allen
1972-1973	Colonel Charles J. McCleery
1973-1974	Colonel Arthur T. Vikander
1974-1975	Lieutenant Colonel Durwood D. Hicks
1975-1977	Colonel Tommy R. Gilliam, Jr.
1977-1978	Major Howard T. Graber, Jr.*
1978-1979	Lieutenant Colonel Stanley T. Hoversten
1979-1980	Colonel James B. Price, Jr.
1980-1981	Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ernst H. Andreas*
1981-1982	Lieutenant Colonel Harold F. Pellegrin
1982-1983	Lieutenant Colonel Irving C. Myers*
1983-1985	Colonel Thomas V. Chandler*
1985-1987	Colonel Charles J. McCleery
1987-1988	Lieutenant Colonel William A. Hodges
1988-1990	Colonel Albert K. Mendonca*
1990-1991	Lieutenant Colonel Donald L. Wirth
1991-1993	Colonel Milton I. Bremer *
1993-1993	Major Dale D. Hart
1993-1995	Lieutenant Colonel James B. O'Dowd
1995-1998	Sergeant Major Howard B. Eighmy
1998-1999	Lieutenant Colonel Earle D. Sweeney
1999-2000	Sergeant Major Howard B. Eighmy

Members Emeritus of the Board of Governors

Colonel Noel B. Pattinson*	Colonel Charles J. McCleery
Colonel Thomas V. Chandler*	Colonel James B. Price, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel Irving C. Myers*	Colonel Tommy R. Gilliam
Major Howard T. Graber, Jr.*	Colonel Arthur T. Vikander
Lieutenant Colonel William T. Hodges	Captain William J. Martin*
Colonel Albert L. Mendonca*	Captain Arthur Esterbrook
Colonel Milton I. Bremer*	

*Of Honored Memory

2000 ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

The 34th Annual Meeting of the 63rd Infantry Division Association was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Arcadia on 16 April 2000. The Luncheon, served buffet style, was attended by 73 persons.

We received a briefing on the activities ,both state-side and in Bosnia , of the 311th Support Command from the Commander, Major General James Comstock. Colonel Michael Schweiger, Commander of the 1394th Direct Support Battalion 63rdRSC, representing the Commander of the 63rd Regional Support Command, Major General John Scott, gave a briefing on the activities of the 63rd both at home and overseas.

Our speaker and honored guest was Staff Sergeant Andrew A. Ramirez. Sergeant Ramirez, a decorated soldier, is a native of Southern California. He joined the U.S.Army in 1991. In January, 1998, he was assigned to Schweinfurt, Germany, as a Bradley gunner and later as a Bradley commander in the 1st Battalion, 4th Cavalry. From Germany, he was sent as a member of the United Nations Task Force Able Sentry to Macedonia. As an assistant observation post commander, Sergeant Ramirez helped to remove Serbian units from the UN observation posts.

No longer assigned to the United Nations operation, Sergeant Ramirez became the commander of a Humvee in a NATO Cavalry unit. During a routine patrol on 31 March 1999, along the border of Macedonia and Serbia, Sergeant Ramirez and two other soldiers were ambushed. They were taken by Serbian forces across the border into Serbia. The three soldiers were held as prisoners of war for 32 days. They were released through the negotiations of the Reverend Jesse Jackson. During his presentation, he related many of the circumstances of his capture and release.

At the time of his dramatic presentation, he was attached to the Fort Irwin, Public Affairs Office. He was the "Total Army Involvement in Recruiting" coordinator.

Following this presentation, the prestigious Eagle Award was presented to Major General William J. Hixon, a former Commander of the 63rd Infantry Division (Reserve). The Eagle Award was also presented to Major Raymond H. Edgerly, a former Adjutant of the 363rd Medical Battalion. He also serves as the Treasurer of the 63rd Infantry Division Association.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Board of Governors gratefully acknowledges the following contributions to the Association which were made between 16 April 2000 and 1 April 2001

CPT Art Esterbrook	In honor of the Officers of Co.B,163d Signal Bn.
Mrs. Janet E. Mendonca	In honor of COL Al Mendonca
LTC G.A. Romandy	In memory of COL Thomas V. Chandler
MAJ Raymond H. Edgerly	In memory of COL Milton Bremer
SGM Howard B. Eighmy	In memory of COL Milton Bremer
Mrs. Henry Lindroth	In memory of MAJ Henry R. Lindroth
LTC Harold Pellegrin	In memory of COL Milton Bremer
Mrs. Edward York, Jr	In memory of LTC Edward York, Jr.
Rear Admiral B.S. Sparks	In memory of SSG Donna B. Sparks
COL Minor K. White	In memory of COL T.V.Chandler &
	In honor of COL John W. King
MAJ Gerza E.Farkas	In memory of Eleanor F. Farkas
Mrs. Milton Bremer	In memory of COL Milton Bremer
SGM Thomas Gorden , Jr.	In memory of Fallen Members
CSM Robert Barber	In memory of COL Thomas Chandler

SUSTAINING CONTRIBUTIONS

LTC Stan Hoverstein	CSM C.S. Cavenee
COL Lawrence J. Stuppy	MG Stephen Bisset
COL Tom Allen	MSG Ulric L. Grigsby, Jr.
COL Emmett Drennen	BG Robert D. Upp
COL James T. Wright	COL Michael J. Schweiger
CPT Carl A. Garnett, II	CW 4 Walter H. Woodward
SGM Fleming Johnson	COL Paul L. Corriere
MAJ George Hutsen	LTC George L. Dutton
LTC Donald R. Forden	MG Robert A. Lame
CW 4 Robert Griffiths	MG Theodore W. Paulson
LTC James O'Dowd	COL Charles J. McCleery

CONTRIBUTIONS TO 63D INF. DIV. MEMORIAL PLAQUE RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY

COL Charles J. McCleery	MAJ Raymond H. Edgerly
LTC Donald Wirth	SGM Howard B. Eighmy
SGM Thomas Gorden, Jr.	COL David G. Ross
CW 4 George F. Murray	LTC William Hodges
COL Minor K. White	Rear Admiral Bennett S. Sparks



**Field Training-Camp Roberts
1960s**



**163d Signal Bn, S-3 Shop
Camp Roberts - 1965
CPT Art Esterbrook, 1LT Don Wirth
with S-3 crew**



**3d Bn, 27th Inf. - 4.2 mortar
Sgt Mejia, Sp4 Goodsell, Pfc Leduc
& Sp4 Chatel - 1960s**

**Map Exercise- Camp Roberts-1960s
SGM Eighmy at far right**





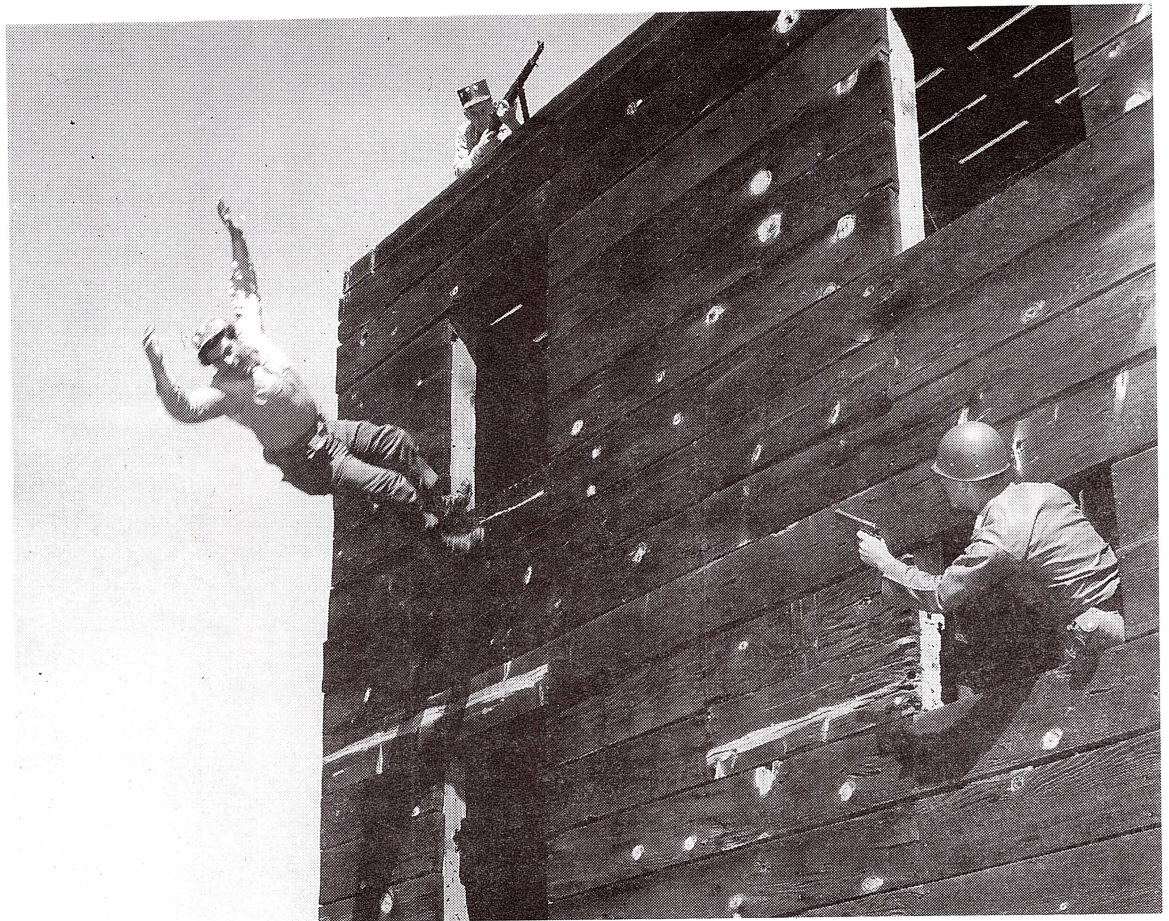
**Pfc Kramer eating fried chicken
during AT- Camp Roberts-1960s**



**Into action- Camp Roberts
Dismounting from APC
1960s**

**63d NCOA - 1960s
Camp Roberts**

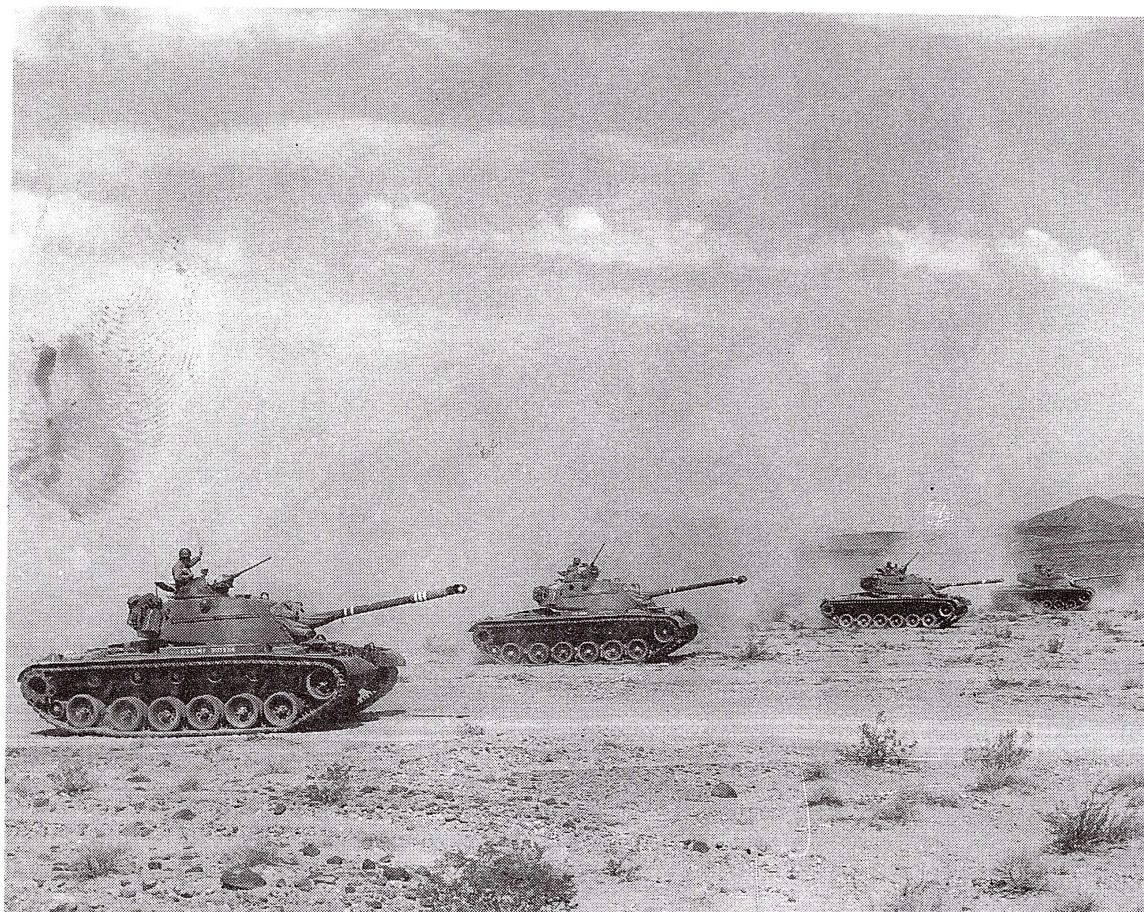




Opps - One Down
Combat in Cities Training
Camp Roberts - 1960s

Camp Roberts - 1960s





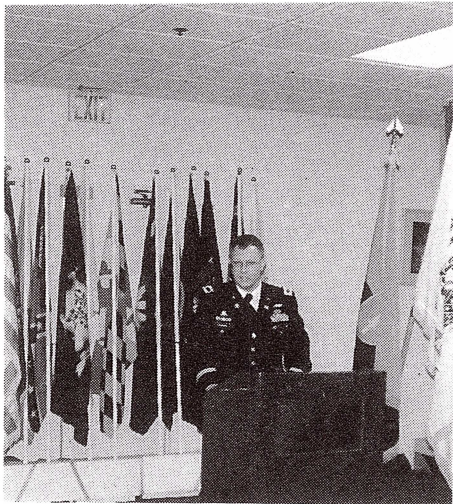
**Armor exercise - Fort Irwin
1961**

**MG Zierath, CPT Buyman, SGT Koop
Camp Roberts - 1967**



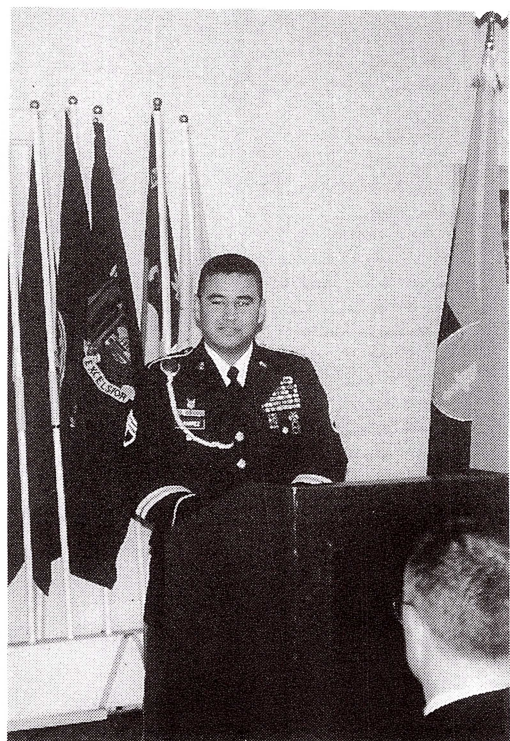
SPEAKERS ANNUAL MEETING 2000

MG James Comstock, CG, 311th COSCOM



COL Michael Schweiger CDR, 139th DS Bn

SSG Andrew Ramirez Key Note Speaker
Former POW in Serbia



The Late COL Albert Mendonca's family
Mrs. Jan Mendonca & family



Son, Kevin Mendonca & family



LTC James Wright, LTC Donald Wirth & Spouses

SGM Thomas Gordon, SGM Howard Eighmy & COL Milton Bremer accept the General Officer Flags
MG Hixson & BG Redman's Flags will be maintained by the Association



MSG Ulric Grigsby, SFC Katherine Fuller & CW5 Farrell Chiles receive their life memberships from SGM Eighmy and CW4 Carson



MAJ Raymond Edgerly receives the Eagle Award & Certificate for his Services to the Association. Presenting the award is SGM Howard Eighmy



COL Lydia Collins, COL Michael Ewens
SFC Katherine Fuller



COL Schweiger, MG Comstock, CW4 & Mrs Murray
Mrs & COL Bremer



Mrs & LTC Earle Sweeney & friends

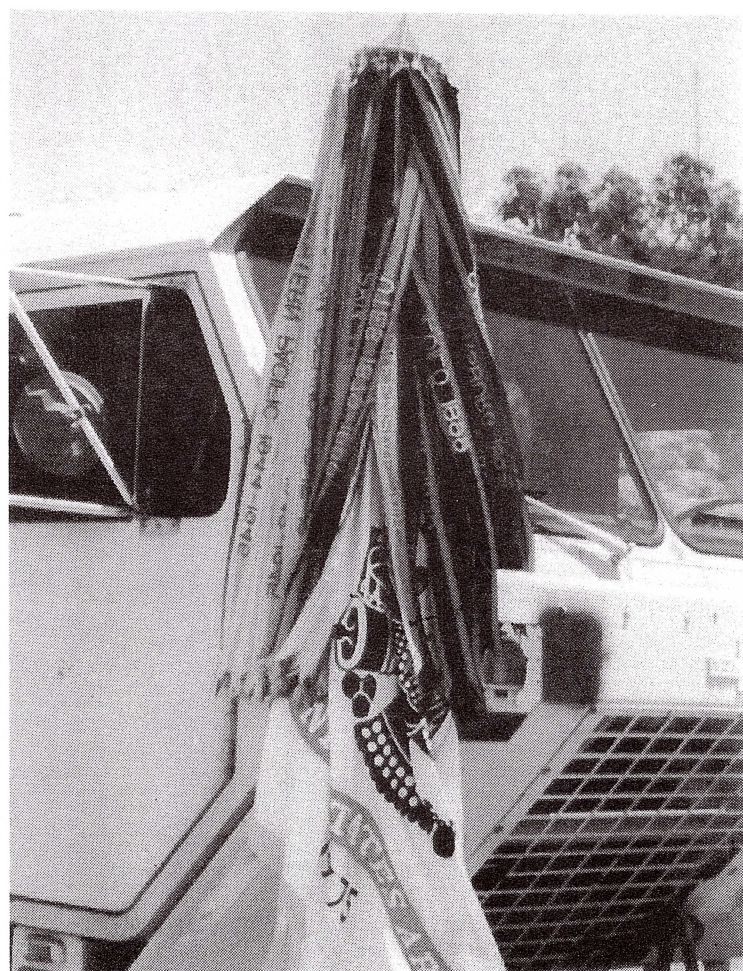
TORRANCE ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE 2000

63d Infantry Division Association was represented by:

LTC Bill Hodge



COL Lydia Collins & COL Michael Ewens



US Army Flag with Battle Streamers
restored by LTC Bill Hodges



MG Ted Paulson, MG Jerry Josten
Mrs Allen & COL William Allen



SGM Thomas Gorden Jr, MSG Ulric Grigsby
BG & Mrs Bob Upp



Mrs & SGM Howard Eighmy, SSG Ramirez
& the Fort Irwin PAO



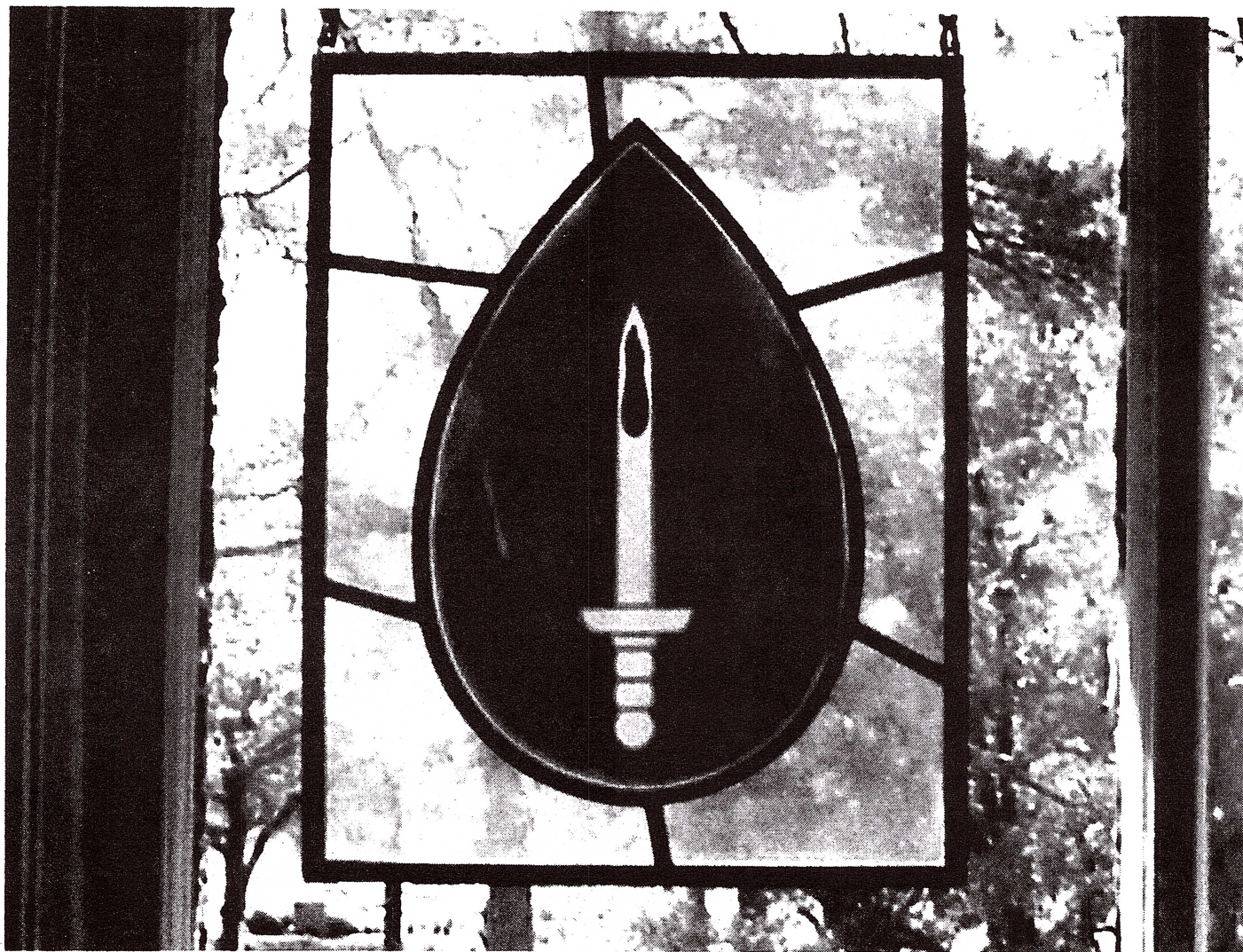
CW4 Mary Carter, CW5 Farrel Chiles & LTC James O'Dowd



Barbara Sparks, CW4 Lee Carson & guests



LTC (CH) & Mrs Don Forden & guests



Stained glass over the entrance
to the National Infantry Museum,
Fort Benning, Georgia

Whooze Nuze...

CW4. George F. Murray Jr. writes that he and his wife Rosemary, mortared across the country once again. We visited family and friends along the way and arrived in Colechester, Vermont, about 100 miles from the Canadian Border, where we spent a week with friends on their farm. Each morning we awoke to the rooster crowing and the cow "mooing" for his breakfast. They have about 80 heads of cattle and were relaxing in the shade until Jim called out to them and they came running to the fence to be fed.

We then travel south to visit family in Connecticut and Rhode Island, where we met cousins from Seattle, Washington, who we hadn't see for over 40 years. On to a 25th Infantry Division Association Reunion in Charleston, South Carolina to relive our war-time adventures with old buddies.

We spent a week with old friends in Florida and returned to California after visiting nieces, nephews and grandchildren in Dallas, Texas.

Continuing for the 15th year, I am still involved with the JROTC at 10 High Schools in Riverside and surrounding cities for the Retired Officers Assn. I am involved with the Riverside National Cemetery support committee and it was great to be able to put together the plaque for the 63d Infantry Division Association, which will be placed on the Memorial Wall at the cemetery and dedicated on May 19, 2001.

LTC, James B. O'Dowd said that this past year we have been busy upgrading our duplex in Lake Havasu, we did time off in October to take the New England/Canada fall foliage cruise by "Royal Caribbean" leaving Boston Harbor and visiting such ports as Portland, Maine, Halifax, Sydney, Quebec and Bar Harbor. It was a great cruise and the fall colors were spectacular. Would advise anyone interested in seeing that part of Canada to do so. There was some cold weather, but over-all the cruise and scenery was beautiful.

P.S. Still couldn't tell if those guys (Canadian) wear anything under those kelts!! This was the "big question" on our bus; tour-so, the mystery remains in Canada.

CW4 Robert A. Griffiths said that he joined the 3d Infantry Division 7th Infantry Regt. On March 1, 1941. I was part of the invasion of French Morocco, Africa and Algeria. Also the invasion of Sicily, Italy, Anzio, Southern France, Germany and Austria.

I joined the Army Reserve in Ohio, my home state, and I became a part of the 63d Infantry Div. In 1952 when I moved to Laverne, CA. I was in the 763rd Ord Bn. and became the acting P.A.O. for 2 years. Later I became a part of the 63d ARCOM G-4 on assignment, then the 164th Ammo Co. and finally the A.S.A. Bn. Prior to retiring. In 1982 I returned to Ohio until my recent move to Chino, CA.

CSM. William Sanders says hello from green country located in America's heartland. Mary and I are still in reasonably good health and spirits considering the hardships of a very severe winter.

Fortunately, we had sold off the majority of our calf crop then winter struck early in October. We had baled over approximately 100 tons of hay and had a 50-ton carry over from the year before. As of the end of March we will have we will have fed it all. We are starting to get our rain, so hopefully we'll have plenty of good grass to bale. Our son recently returned from Texas where he purchased us a new herd bull. Cost us an arm and a leg, but hopefully he'll do in the pasture what it says he can do on paper and pedigree. Next year calf crop will tell. On an even better note, our 7-year-old granddaughter beat out her competition and was the Niobrara County Wyoming Rodeo princess for the year 2000. Our Temecula, CA. based grandson was selected to represent his school at a Science Fair and also selected to tour schools in Orange County and San Diego County to tell students about being educated in a private school, enuf said. Class six ration time.

Come visit and stay for happy hour.
Biscuits and gravy and the best damn steak
in Oklahoma and for sure, California.

LTC Donald L. Wirth says here's my story. My wife Rae Ann and I spent January through March in Mesa, AZ. Living in our motor home and round dancing there. I had some problems with the healing of my chest after my bypass surgery, so I had to have surgery in April to correct this problem. That meant that I had to take it very easy and stay at home most of the summer. While we were home in Placentia, we sang in the church choir and attended the Hollywood Bowl and Fullerton Civic Light Opera. At the end of June we sent to Laughlin NV. and the Grand Canyon. I had always wanted to take the train to the Grand Canyon, so we did. We had a great time. We made up for our lack of travel by going to England, Wales, Scotland and Germany in September. We spent the first three weeks in Great Britain and two weeks in Germany. I was very impressed with seeing a part of the world I had only read about, seen in pictures and studied in the USAR Map Exercise. It is the land where our ancestors came from.

We left for Mesa AZ. Again early in November to live in our motor home and go dancing again. We will be back for the annual 63d Infantry Division Brunch meeting.

I am still on the Board of Governors of the 63d Inf. Division Association and the Editor of the Blade newsletter. With the passing of COL Milt Bremer, I was appointed Secretary of the Association.

COL Jan C. Menning says still helping the county Chamber of Commerce, lots of business, lots of tourist to Yosemite. Over three and one half million a year visit the county and we operate two tourist information centers to help them enjoy the area. We are still traveling and enjoying various rest and relaxation opportunities. *It's always delightful to see old friends who stop by to say hi.*

MSG Norman C. Miller said that he is still alive and kicking, maybe? We might be moving to Arizona, somewhere near Clarksdale or Mesa, providing we can find someplace that we can afford. As it is getting too expensive to live in this area or even California anymore.

Sorry that we can't go to the reunion this year.

REAR ADM Bennett Sparks says still enjoying retirement, have giving up most of my job in the reserve officers Asst., disable veterans, American legion, veteran of foreign wars, state of California and now just enjoying life.

COL William Seaver said that 2000 was a good year and I traveled to Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Trons and Salt Lake City in June. A great trip and our first visit to these beautiful places.

In October we traveled to Washington, Dc. (we hadn't been there in years) and spent a week sight seeing. We also visited in Williamsburg, Annapolis and many other historic places.

We next flew up to Toronto, Canada to visit our son and his family. We enjoyed the trip and the chance to see the Korean War Memorial and the Vietnam wall as well as many other places important in our countries history.

It was good to hear from a lot of old 63d friends at Christmas and I hope that 2001 is a great year for everyone.

MAJ Raymond Edgerly related that he and his wife Dorthea have just published their 13th family Genealogy Book. This 521 page volume is entitled James Roach of Green County, Indiana. They began publishing family histories in 1984 and have vowed this *will be their last-in spite of the ominous number.*

Because of our busy schedule, our big trip this year was to the Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation. A short version of his scenic and bucolic trip was published in a recently copy of the Blade.

COL Minor K. White reports that he is still in Laguna Beach taking care of his mother. He has traveled to Georgia four times this past year to visit a good friend, also a retired army colonel. We spent our time in Columbus and Savannah.

Enjoyed a fine tour of the Fort Benning Infantry Museum. I plan to buy his home in Columbus, do love the old south. I continue working in the yard and caring for my many roses. In December I has surgery (3 procedure) but I am now back to normal, whatever that means? Best wishes to all the members.

BG Robert Upp said that he served in combat infantry in both theaters of WWII and JAGC in the Korean conflict.

In April 1945, Patton's third Army crossed the Rhine River and was speeding across Central Germany. I was a captain, commanding K Company of the 259th Regiment of the 65th Infantry division. My equipment included 21 jeeps and trailers and one ¾ ton truck.

Under Patton's orders we had mechanized ourselves. It was easy since we only had about 100 survivors from our original 200 men. We were the point of the Third Army in our sector. When we neared the Fulda River, Fulda was showing white flags and sheets everywhere. As I approached the city gate, a small group of civilians came out to meet us.

One stately woman told me that she was the Burgermeister's wife and that he was some where on the Eastern front. She handed me his long barreled Luger pistol and said that the city was ours. I said that our orders were to do no harm or damage if there was no resistance, but that we needed to take housing until advised of our next objective.

I selected a nice looking residence at the edge of town for my headquarters. I walked in the front door yelling "Auss mit der ganzen haus", probably incorrect but already proved effective in evacuating civilians from their homes.

An attractive, frightened young woman appeared, looked at me and asked me in

good English, "Are you going to rape me?" I laughed and replied, only if you ask me to. She then said that she had been told that the 65th Division soldiers were General Patton's SS troops and when we arrived we would rape and kill the women. I then told her that if an American soldier raped a German woman, we would hang him. She didn't believe me but left shaking her head in wonder.

LTC George Dutton would like to relate that they had a relatively quiet year. I wouldn't say we're slowing down, but we are. We did visit Utah for an Elderhostel on genealogy. We found out that we really do have ancestors. It is exciting to find that ancestors are listed on a census report. Then in July we went to Disney World for an Elderhostel on Walt Disney. We actually had a great time despite taking leave of our senses and going to Florida in July, but that was when the Elderhostel was scheduled. We learned about the tunnels under the magic kingdom and how costumes are bar coded and the scenes to see all the workings. It was a fascinating trip with beautiful accommodations at Disney Institute.

George will have completed his second year as president of his Barbershop chorus group this December. Jay has been busy all year working on the church Holiday Boutique for the United Methodist Women. This is their big project for mission work. One room in the house is devoted to this activity and it drives George crazy that the room is packed with crafts and projects in progress.

Getting to the vacuum cleaner in the closet had to be a problem, but that's another story. My cardiologist seems to think I'm doing fine, so that's good.

Our kids are busy with their very active lives. Tom keeps busy at school or I should say the students keep him busy. Our daughter-in-law, Jani, is a co-author and editor of a book on education called *SCHOOL THAT LEARNS*. It has been a three-year plus project and finally got published this fall. Our oldest grandson, Nathan, has spent a semester in France

studying god knows what, but from all reports has enjoyed it a great deal. He will be home (Ohio) December 10th. It was quite exciting and amazing to receive e-mail from France!! It sure is a different world and a little hard for the old folks to keep up. Noland (Nathan's brother) is a senior in high school and very active in drama.

Dave and family really enjoy living in Santa Fe. Kate (13) and Logan (9) both swim in competitions. Kate is in the eighth grade and swims with the high school team. They win some and lose some. Paul continues running his window washing business. He is the "window washer to the stars". He actually has his own web site. Jennifer is a very verbal and active 7 year old and doing well in the second grade. We feel so luck having one grandchild nearby.

I hope this finds you well.

SGM Thomas Gorden said that he will have to go back to work so that will not have to work so hard. I am working hard with the 63d Infantry division Asst. USAR and Employer support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). In February 2000 I spent two weeks with my younger daughter in Miami, Florida. In August 2000 I spent two weeks in Bangkok, Thailand. October 2nd through the 6th, I had the pleasure to visit the navy's Fleet week where I rode the USS Cleveland (LPD-7) from San Diego to San Francisco, CA. In December, I was in Virginia for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve training. In January 2001 in Coronado, CA., more training with the (ESGR).

SGM Howard Eighmy asked, am I really retired? It doesn't seem like it. The days go by so fast. Being President again has filled the days between meetings and telephone calls! Although it was a stay at home year, we enjoyed so many visits from family and military friends. Had a great visit with CSM William Sanders, COL Terry Stacy, CSM William Jacobi and COL Russ Parker and Judi.

In February, I had the honor to attend the 63d R.S.C.'s dine-out, taking part in the ceremony exchanging battle streamers from

our 63d Infantry Division flag to the 63d R.S.C.'s flag.

The highlight of the year was going to Laughlin to speak at the Ramada Museum "WINGS OF HEROS" of my experiences during World War II. From there we drove through central California, seeing friends. We stopped in Visalia to meet the newest member of our family, Adrienne Ross, born last February to our niece, Libby.

For the coming year I will see what comes.

Hoping for a new President to take over.

COL Tom Allen says that this past year has been busy with family and friends and traveling. Had lunch occasionally with LTC Clary and Sinks. Also attended too many funeral for 63d members. I transferred R.O.A. membership to Channel Island chapter, as they have regular monthly meetings.

Although it meets at the Officer's Club at Port harbor, the largest group of members in the Army.

LTC James Wright says that it was summer training at Camp Robert 1965. I was the Co. of company A 163d Signal Battalion. Our company was on night operations and we had trained hard on night discipline, no talking, no smoking and no noise. All of my men were well equipped, each had his protective mask and we were informed that there would be aggressor activity with a gas attack (teargas).

Needless to say, I was not looking forward to that prospect, but we dutifully found a defensible area for night bivouac and set up our pup tents. As the sun was setting and it was growing dark, I told only one individual to put out his smoke and one other to stop talking. All of the possible avenues of aggressor infiltration were starting with guard to sound the alert if required. The night wore on, the men started falling asleep, then the dawn broke, no gas attack had taken place.

I was puzzled, but of course relieved because I didn't want my men to have to go through the agony of a tear gas attack. Over

breakfast that morning, the individual who had been designated to lead the gas attack against us came up to me and said, Sir we were prepared to attack, but we couldn't find you.

That was one of the proudest moments of my command time.

MSG Ulric Grigsby Jr. said that some pay to travel, but he does it free and gets paid for it. On the 19th of June he flew to Norfolk, VA. , spent the night on the navy base, the next day took a physical and signed the contract. Then flew to New York, then to Miland, Sicily (Catania) and by van to Siganela. Stayed overnight, then was taken to Augusta Bay and caught the USS Anzzio.

Taught four classes of personal finance, 1st port of call was Lamaddalena, Sardinia. The next stop was Cannes, Frana. We spent Basrille day there. Then we went to Dubrovink, Croatia.

The last port of call was Palma, Spain. On the 8th of August headed state side. Finished the class on the 15th of August and left the ship in Newport RI. Spent five days in Boston visiting relatives and old friends. The last time I was home was in 1981.

Pretty good for a person who is 73 years old.

MG Robert Lame reports "We were traveling in Australia at last years annual meeting and will be on a trip around the U.S. over this years meeting". We spent two (+) weeks going from Sydney to Cairns with stops along the Great Barrier Reef, a week in the Alice Springs/Ayres rock area and three weeks in Perth and the west coast. Our third trip to a beautiful country left us wanting to return again soon! We managed to take several short trips with our trailer.

Work sort of interfered with travel. This year I was appointed Calif. Chair for the National Committee For Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, so got into the purple business for the Department of Defense. It's great to be involved again with Reserve activities at the volunteer support level. We managed to get in trips to the Washington/Baltimore area, the

maritime provinces of Canada and a week in Iceland – A beautiful country with exceptionally clean air due to the lack of industrial activity and geothermal and hydropower.

Hello to all and I promise to try to avoid travel for the 2002 annual meeting.

CPT Carl Garnett II says the past year has been an excellent year for me. I am still in fairly good health and traveling as usual.

Since my wife, Gerlinde, died in 1996, I have attempted to carry on a normal life style. My three children, Victor, Carla and David, still live in West Covina, CA. We are a very close knitted family.

I spent several months with them last year and I expect to do the same this year. I still attend the various musical events in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Several of the female singers have been here to visit me during their slow season. We are also very close friends.

I have been retired since 1984 and enjoying retirement very much. I hope that I will be able to carry on at this pace for several more years.

I want to extend my best regards to my friends in the 62d and hopefully some will come and visit this beautiful area of Northern Italy, called lake Garda. They are always welcome here.

COL Emmett Drennen says that during the year 2000, Jan took her vacation and visited her sister in Mission, Texas, that's about as far south as you an go and still be in the US of A.

I hooked up with the friendship Airborne Assoc. and flew to Beijing, China to jump with the people's Liberation army parachute team. We visited the Pla Army barr and fired their small arms. Then we went to the Air Force base for training the parachute jump. We jumped from a Russian Antonov-2, I miss judged the wind and had a very rough landing, didn't break anything though.

Then I went to the hospital with pneumonia while the rest of the group traveled to Xian to see the Terra Cotta

Warriors, the Great Wall and other sights. The stay in the hospital for six days was very good; the nurses were very cute and friendly, although we did have a little communication problem. The food wasn't too bad, but after a while the rice soup got to be too much. By the time I arrived home, I was in good health.

Two trips to Asia and two cases of pneumonia is some one telling me I should stay out of Asia.

COL Russell Park reports we are sorry but we cannot attend the annual meeting this year because he and Judy will be in Florida, Tennessee and Alabama for the month of April (1-29). Grand Olde Opry, Friends in Memphis (Millington NAS); Panama City; Alabama and relatives in Chattanooga and Miami. Our main reason for using or experiencing American airline senior tickets, is an invitation from friends with Lockheed to view the scheduled space shuttle launch up close and personal (STS 100 Endeavor). If I am appointed an Ambassador by the CAR, I would like to make a short pitch at the annual meeting in 2002.

Our cruise company cancelled the "First total solar eclipse" cruise in the middle of the South Atlantic for June, the first for this millennium.

We are as excited as we hope you all are about the Tricare for health care for life program. Judy and I have been members of the Medicare subvention test almost from the beginning.

San Diego is a big mover and shaker for Tricare health care for the life program. It will save a lot of money for military retirees and provide some excellent health care benefits.

Judy and I use the system at least once a week. Pharmacy, Health/Wellness center, Primary care and many of the specialty clinics. We did Hawaii for the month of November, Mexico in December and Puerto Rica for three weeks in January.

COL Bill Monsanto says that in May he revisited Germany and Belgium with a group from the 99th Infantry Division

Association. We were invited to the 55th anniversary of the crossing of the Rhine at Remagen. Where the 99th had been the first division to cross under fire on March 8, 1945. We met with veterans of the 227th Volksgrenadiers who fought us at the bridge and had found us previously at Elenborn Ridge in the Battle of the Bulge. This time we met in peace and exchanged many friendly comments and recollections.

After the ceremonies at Ramagen, we returned to the Ardennes and the division's battle positions. I found my old 81mm mortar gun pit and next to it my foxhole. As the ground was sloped and my footing not too steady, I went into my foxhole headfirst just like the time. Having a hard head, I did not suffer a bump to the noggin.

I did get to review my German/English vocabulary. Now Budweiser is called Bitberger, but schnapps is still paint thinner. To get over the forest trail, I still had to huff and puff. Not carrying 55 pounds of "stuff" was offset by having to carry 55 more years.

Greeting to all and I shall continue drinking to your health, until I ruin my own.

MAJ George LaPold informed us of just a few interesting comments concerning his overloaded work with the largest Volunteer Organization in the world, The American Legion.

For the past five years I have been teaching at the Central Washington University for the American Legion in the Boy's state program. The most rewarding job I have had in years. Working with the "Future Leaders of America", teaching them City, County and State Government. I had them for two full days teaching them the Senate and also the cities and counties. Six days straight, no playtime and the hours are from 0600 until 10:30 pm. Keeps you going and healthy, but great rewards.

Also during the last 5 years I have worked my way through the chain of command and last July I was elected to the State commanders Position for Washington. Let me tell you demands are many. We have 170 Legion posts and 37,000 members, now that is work. We hold 24 area

conferences and 4 conventions per year plus training seminars all over the state. Last year I traveled 22,000 miles for the Legion.

When Gov. Bush and McCain came to Washington and spoke at Everett Navel Base, I had the pleasure to introduce Gov. McCain on National T.V. On the platform were Gov. Bush, Mrs. Bush, Senator Gorton, congresswoman Dunn and yours truly. Quite an honor I assure you.

We work close with the Canadians as I'm only 2 miles from the border and the "Branch" Legion wanted to do something special for our MIA/POW, so they had a flag made and a transfer of the flag to the United States. It was my honor to receive it on behalf of the United States, a very moving moment for sure.

I attended the Canadian Military Ball every year and talk about style, when they present the debutantes plus the individual units and the bagpipes, you never forget tradition of the English. Just great people.

For the last 3 years I have been the International peace Arch Assn. American Vice President. In June of each year we bring the children from both countries together and march them through the Peace Arch. Last year we had 20,000 kids from both countries. Another job that is all volunteers. Pretty busy you might say. Well that's enough for now.

LTC Harold Pellegrin relates that although our lines of communication are open despite the distances from each other, SGM Eighmy and COL McCleery frequently discuss the activities and program of the association. It is good to keep in touch and to share our news.

The past year has been a memorable one for our family. For three days about the last of August we gathered (30 of us) at Carmel by the sea, to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary as well as Ruth's 80th birthday and my 85th. The actual dates came later. Getting everyone together was a chore, what with school, work, vacation schedules, etc.

It is a great area for a reunion, so much to see and do for everyone. On December the 1st LTC Don Wirth and his wife stopped

by for a short visit. We had a great dinner together. We hope that any of you, who are in the area, going or coming through, will stop for a visit.

CSM William E. Jacobi informed us that he is back helping children in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders with their reading and math. I am glad to report that I have moved back to god's country from Pennsylvania. I was very unhappy there. Those people, New Yorker's, thought we lived in a hole in the ground. They were surprised to find out that we had running water, electricity and flushing toilets. Typical New Yorkers.

COL H. Peter Velasco said that we are enjoying life here in Las Vegas. Though we don't gamble, we take advantage of all of the two for one and freebies we get from time to time. We golf three times a week (hocp 13) and bowl twice a week with my better half, Judy. We teach fencing at a local fencing center

We enjoyed a fly-fishing trip to northern New Mexico last September with my brother. It was the first time in 50 years that we were able to do any activity alone together. We treasured each day.

Currently we are working with AARP as tax consultants doing taxes for the elderly. This is a free service. This May we are going to Kona on the big island of Hawaii to enjoy our timeshare. This summer we will take a trip to Hood River Oregon on the Columbia Gore to visit friends.

MAJ John Tapp said that he planned to travel to Austria and Bavaria in the spring of 2000, but it was aborted when he had a stroke in February 2000. The same plans are now back on track for late May-June this year, God willing. The stroke has had its consequences. The right leg screwed up a little, not always dependable, this in turn has screwed up my golf game a lot, but I'm out there trying and I'm on the top side of the grass, that counts for a lot.

CW4 Walter H. Woodward says that April is my birth month (18th) and by the time we

gather for our annual meeting on April 22nd, I will have celebrated by 82nd birthday. Hoo-Ray.

I failed to submit any news to the "Whozze Nuze" for the past two or three years, but a couple of things or two have happened to me in the meantime. During my 80th year, I attended a musical seminar held at West Lake Village Inn, sponsored by the Music Department of my church, Bel Vue Community Presbyterian Church (USA). In addition to several presentations by individuals of musical persuasion, one gentleman from the music department of USC presented a complete historical beginning of American inspired music, family, folk, country and western jazz. Finishing with gospel and sacred music. Let me say it was very educational for me to the extent that the Music Director accepted my request to join the Heritage Choir. I pretend to sing bass. I give credit to the professional efforts and tenacity of our Music Director for what I have learned. I have enjoyed the music the choir offers for Sunday worship service, the several concerts the choir has performed, and I look forward to each opportunity of blending with other bass voices in the choir.

Have you been to New York City lately? I have lived in Southern California for the past 58 years to escape the cold artic express, snow, ice storms, broken tree limbs, downed power lines and fender benders. Oh well, the rest of this story is – I have a cousin who lives in Brooklyn, NY. Her children arranged to give her a surprise 85th birthday party. We received an invitation and a phone call to attend. Edna C., my soul mate of 58 years and I rationalize that we should attend. First we checked the New York weather. Plenty of snow on the ground and temperatures of 19, 23 and 27 degrees during the past week. To confirm these temperatures, we checked with our youngest granddaughter, Toni, who lives in Manhattan – temperatures confirmed. We decided we needed to shop for items of shoes and clothing we don't normally wear in Southern California. We also checked the Internet and bought some cheap airline

tickets. On Friday, January 12th, we're off to New York City.

Arrived at snowbound JFK airport, fortunately for JFK, unfortunately for the Woodwards, they are in the process of remodeling the facility. We were moved by wheel chairs from the arrival gate to a public pick-up area, which seemed like a long mile. Finally, we were picked up by relatives and spent 1-1/2 hours on overcrowded streets to get to the hotel in Hempstead, NY. The surprise party was held on Saturday in Baldwin, NY in a beautiful restaurant overlooking a half-frozen body of water with ducks and geese. The restaurant by request kept their well-organized Christmas decorations in place.

The decorations really enhanced the beauty and surprise of the birthday party, enthusiastically enjoyed by 95 relatives and friends. Come Sunday, granddaughter Toni, a member of Central Baptist Church in Manhattan wanted us to attend with her. To us it was a long trip of approximately 40 miles from Long Island, traffic signals and cabs, crossing the Queensborough Bridge. We arrived at the church about ten minutes before the end of service. We did have a chance to meet a number of her friends and church members. Now, the long trip back to Hempstead. At the end we were worn out. Monday we returned to beautiful, warm, no snow and ice Southern California. Rationalizing again, we have decided it was an exciting and enjoyable weekend.

Lastly, our eldest granddaughter, Anissa, and husband Walter live in Carson, CA. After 8 hears of marriage made us proud great grandparents by the birth of their son on Saturday, January 6, 2001. Named 'Walter Woodward Thompson' and nicknamed 'Trey' daddy Walter, after great grandpa Walter. The first boy in the Walter Woodward family. You ask, be we excited? Yes.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Wooze Nuze received after cut off date and not published, will be published in the upcoming Blade.

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COL Albert T. Finnerty	1854 S. Silver Hawk Drive	Diamond Bar, CA 91765-2851
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COL Hayward Fong	201 North Catalina Street	Los Angeles, CA 90004-4603
LTC (CH) Donald L. Forden	27001 Crews Hill Drive	Sun City, CA 92586-3109
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Mrs. Erle H. Frady	9 Marbella Drive	Rancho Mirage, CA 92270-4649
CSM Earl Franklin	924 Frandale Avenue	Valinda, CA 91744-3204
SFC Katherine Fuller	4133 W. Wilson # 54	Banning, CA 92220-5311
CPT Carl A. Garnett, II	Localita Molini di Cal 3	37018 Malcesine, Verona, Italia
COL Tom R. Gilliam	PO Box 220, 1596 Martin St.	Lakeport, CA 95453-0220
COL Abram F. Goldman	99 Conejo Circle	Palm Desert, CA 92260-0382
COL Chung C. Gong	P.O. Box 397	Five Points, CA 93624-0397
SGM Thomas Gorden, Jr.	500 E. Calaveras Street	Altadena, CA 97001-2220
Mrs. Ray Gorman	15035 Sandy Ridge Road	Elizabeth Lake, CA 93532-1310
Mrs. Howard T. Graber, Jr.	2012 La Mesa Drive	Santa Monica, CA 90402-2325
MSG Robert F. Graf	16807 Lassen Street	North Hills, CA 91343-1004
COL Artis C. Grant	4334 Victoria Park Place	Los Angeles, CA 90019 -4211
CW4 Robert A. Griffiths	address unknown	
MSG Ulric L. Grigsby, Jr.	24924 Avenida Balita	Valencia, CA 91355-3030
CW4 John Hakker	632 36th Street	San Bernardino, CA 92405-2004
CW4 Joseph L. Hamilton	470 Mesa Road	Nipomo, CA 93444-9311
MAJ Dale D. Hart	6522 North Oak Avenue	Temple City, CA 91780-1306
MAJ James R. Helms	2220 Sewanee Lane	Arcadia, CA 91007-5161
MSG Jim Hensley	P.O. Box 128	Ventura, CA 93002-0128
Mrs. Chris Hershey	Box 61	Carrolls, WA 98601-0061
CPT George R. Hernandez	PO 655 Sierra Meadows Drive	Sierra Madre, CA 91024-1154
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COL Ralph J. Hippert	803 Dunbar Road	Carlisle, PA 17013-1715
MG William J. Hixson	1167 Roxbury Drive Apt 108	Los Angeles, CA 90212
LTC Wayne G. Ho	98711 Iho Place	Aiea, HI 96701
LTC William A. Hodges	11730 E. Whittier Bl, Sp 68	Whittier, CA 90601 -3950
Mrs. Sydney J. Hoenig	653 Glen Oaks Road	Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-5933
SSG George J. Hofstetter	12609 Eastbrook Ave	Downey Ca 90242
LTC Stanley T. Hoversten	21062 George Brown Ave.	Riverside, CA 92518-2805
MAJ Bruce H. Huntley	13836 Faust Avenue	Bellflower, CA 90706-2622
MAJ George E. Hutson	7641 Dallas Lane N.	Maple Grove, MN 55311-2712
SGM George Ichimura	394 Merced Place	West Covina, Ca 91790-5026
1SG Jay T. Imperial	8838 E. Valley Blvd.	Rosemead, Ca 91770-0399
CSM William E. Jacobi	PO Box 2712	Fallon, NV 89406
1LT Charles R. Janeway	1917 Grandview Lane	West Covina, CA 91792-1318
CW4 Duane R. Johnson	16503 Arrowhead Dr.	Leander, Tx 73641-8504
SGM Fleming Johnson	2435 W. 118th Street	Hawthorne, CA 90250-1802
SGM Victor P. Johnson	3485 Carnelian Lane	Oceanside, CA 92056-4855
LTC Flo J. Jones	8531 N. 30th Drive	Phoenix, Az 85051
LTC Paul R. Jones	8531 N. 30th Drive	Phoenix, Az 85051
MG Jerry J. Josten	23642 Decorah Road	Diamond Bar, CA 91765-1311
Mrs. Louis Kaufman	2645 Yellowwood Drive	Westlake Village, CA 91361-5561
CW4 James B. Keeling	4312 Prince Street	Bakersfied, Ca 93301-5908
LTC Maurice D. Keller	3139 Dianora Drive	Rancho Palos Verde, CA 90275
MAJ Jesse O. Kendrick	937 W. 244th Street	Harbor City, CA 90710-1802

LTC Richard H. Kidwell	10988 Cold Harbor Drive	Alta Loma, CA 91737-7816
LTC Robert D. Kleist	3110 Peters Circle	Glendale, CA 91208-1737
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CSM Orley E. Laird	address unknown	
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COL Homer B. Lind	14707 Pammy Way	Grass Valley, CA 95949-6524
LTC Kenneth R. Lindley	232 South Ridge Drive	Fallbrook, CA 92028-1624
Mrs. Harry F. Lindroth	114 Marian Trail	Chester, CA 96020-9739
COL George Lundgren	1965 Valley Ranch Circle	Prescott, AZ 86303-6331
COL Vernon MacPherson	935 Genter Street Apt. 4-F	La Jolla, CA 92037-5518
COL William E. Mannatt	2226 Paseo Del Mar	San Pedro, CA 90732-5421
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SFC Arturo A Martinez	Address Unknown	
CW2 Brian A. F. Masser	10646 Samoa Avenue	Tujunga, CA 91042-1521
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MSG Norman G. Miller	1800 Atrium Pkwy #404	Napa, CA 94559-4808
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MAJ Albert W. Morris	1025 Cynthia Avenue	Pasadena, CA 91107-1904
CPT Frank Mulligan	3014 Priunfo Canyon	Agoura, CA 91301
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COL David G. Ross
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COL Michael H. Schirm
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COL Michael J. Schweiger
MG John L. Scott
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COL Paul G. Seehusen
Mrs. Albert W. Seymour
BG Darel R. Sievers
LTC Earl Sinks, Jr.
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LTC Robert Smith
MAJ Hamilton C. Smyth
ADM Bennett S. Sparks
COL Terry L. Stacy
LTC Roland L. Stewart, Jr.
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Mrs. John D. Tolin
BG Robert D. Upp
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COL Arthur T. Vikander
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LTC Jack Wear
COL Minor K. White
LTC Paul W. Wims
LTC Donald L. Wirth
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Duarte, CA 91010-1652
Ramona, CA 92065-4913
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Glendale, CA 91208-1730
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Palm Desert, CA 92211
Redondo Beach, CA 90277-6514
La Verne, CA 91750-1864
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Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Gilmore
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